

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 USSS-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:CPTORREY:MMG

APPROVED BY ARA/MEX:CPTORREY

ARA:MR. KUBISCH

SCA:FSMITH

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S/CCT:AMB. HOFFACKER

SY:MR. GENTILE

S/S-O: W. NEWLIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070175

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, MX

SUBJECT: PATTERSON KIDNAPPING: SAFEKEEPING OF MRS.

PATTERSON'S RANSOM FUNDS

REF: MEXICO 2903

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THE EMBASSY'S ANALYSIS OF THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SAFEKEEPING OF THE RANSOM FUNDS AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE LEGAL PROHIBITIONS AGAINST THE EMBASSY OR THE CONGEN ACCEPTING THE FUNDS FOR SAFEKEEPING OR FOR THE DEPOSIT OF THE FUNDS IN A BANK IN THE NAME OF THE CONGEN EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY BE LABELED "IN CUSTODY FOR MRS. PATTERSON".

2. GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WITH WHICH WE ARE FACED, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE MONEY BE DEPOSITED IN A BANK FOR SAFEKEEPING IN THE NAME OF ANDRA PATTERSON.

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3. WE UNDERSTAND THE EMBASSY'S CONCERN OVER MRS. PATTERSON'S PERSONAL SAFETY AND ITS RATIONALE CONNECTING THE READY AVAILABILITY OF THE FUNDS TO POSSIBLE IMPETUOUS ACTION ON HER PART. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THE EMBASSY IS FULLY AWARE THAT THE POSITION OF THE USG WITH RESPECT TO MRS. PATTERSON IS RESTRICTED TO AN ADVISORY AND FACILITATIVE ROLE AND THAT WE SHOULD NOT IMPEDE HER FROM USING THE MONEY AS SHE DEEMS APPROPRIATE FOR THE RELEASE OF HER HUSBAND. ANY OTHER USG ROLE IN THIS RESPECT COULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS. WE HOPE THAT THE APPARENT RAPPORT AND CONFIDENCE DEVELOPED BETWEEN MRS. PATTERSON AND EMBASSY/CONGEN OFFICERS WILL RESULT IN PRUDENCE ON THE PART OF MRS. PATTERSON WITH REGARDS BOTH TO HER PERSONAL SAFETY AND TO THE USE OF THE FUNDS.

4. DEPARTMENT LEAVES TO EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH MRS. PATTERSON, WHERE THE DEPOSIT FOR SAFEKEEPING SHOULD BE MADE. THE EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO ASSIST MRS. PATTERSON IN MAKING THIS DEPOSIT, INCLUDING MAKING CERTAIN THAT THE FUNDS WILL BE READILY AVAILABLE TO HER. THE EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE, AS REQUIRED, FOR THE PHYSICAL TRANSFER OF THE FUNDS. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, COMMERCIAL BANKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE070175
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CPTORREY:MMG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740077-1104
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740461/aaaacdqk.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: MEXICO 2903
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PATTERSON KIDNAPPING: SAFEKEEPING OF MRS. PATTERSON'S RANSOM FUNDS
TAGS: PINR, MX, US, (PATTERSON, JOHN)
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005